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SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Lantos:

I am replying further to your October 5 letter to President Reagan, cosigned by 39 of your colleagues, regarding Raoul Wallenberg. I sincerely regret the delay in this response.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

As you may know, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. It made the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet Government.

To further emphasize our dedication to resolve the mystery surrounding Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels immediately after he was made an honorary U.S. citizen. As yet, we have not received a response from them. However, our

The Honorable
Tom Lantos,
House of Representatives.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FFPC/CDR	DET	Date: 10/13/82
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efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in his case.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternate Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

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As you may be aware, Edward J. Derwinski, Counselor of the Department of State, testified in Congress on the subject of Raoul Wallenberg on August 3, 1983. As he stated then, "Our position has remained consistent and clear. Until the Soviets provide a full clarification of Wallenberg's fate, the United States will not accept as final the Soviet assurances that Wallenberg died in 1947 ... I can assure you categorically that this matter will be raised again in every appropriate forum."

Sincerely,

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